

Ridge Park High School Baseball coach Bill Miller. The winningest coach in the history of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA, Bill unfortunately passed away after a yearslong struggle with cancer at 68.

Pleasure Ridge Park High School, or PRP as we all call it, was Bill's home away from home. He spent 50 years of his life there as a student, an assistant coach, and, ultimately, for nearly four decades, as head baseball coach. Working with the students, Bill influenced countless lives and helped prepare young people for adulthood. The school's athletic director Nick Waddell said, "He was like a father to so many people."

Bill attended the University of Alabama after graduating from PRP, playing baseball and one season of football. Leaving Tuscaloosa, Bill returned to his hometown and to his high school as an assistant coach. Then, in 1980, Bill was named PRP's second head baseball coach.

For the next 38 seasons, Bill's team dominated baseball in Kentucky winning a record 1,144 games, including six State championships. Baseball was Bill's passion, but it was more than just a game. On the diamond, Bill saw it as his responsibility to help make boys into men. He taught them the values of hard work, of competition, and how to leave it all on the field.

Two and half years ago, when Bill was diagnosed, he refused to let his disease stop him. He kept coaching and mentoring, even winning his sixth State championship last year. When he couldn't coach, Bill would be there on the sidelines, supporting his team.

Last month, Bill was inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Although he wasn't able to attend the ceremony, he recorded a message to his players, his fans, and his friends. Dozens of current and former players, many of whom consider Bill to be a role model throughout their lives, attended the ceremony to honor their coach.

When he passed away on April 23, Bill was surrounded by his loving family and friends. In addition to all of his players, Bill is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart, Vickie, and their children, Matt and Megan. Following in Bill's footsteps, Megan is in her 15th season as the head softball coach at PRP. Coach Bill Miller's legacy will continue to be felt by this community, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable Louisvillian.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608.

On this vote, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608.●

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 102 on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608, the nomination of Dana Baiocco to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of 7 years from October 27, 2017. On vote No. 102, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 608.●

CONFIRMATION OF GINA HASPEL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to discuss my decision to vote against the President's nomination of Gina Haspel to be the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA.

First, let me state that I have immense respect for the men and women of the CIA. I have had the opportunity to meet many of them and to personally offer my thanks in some of the world's most dangerous locations. Their work is difficult and demanding but critical to helping safeguard our nation.

I do not question Ms. Haspel's patriotism, intellect, or dedication to the CIA. She has ably served the agency and several Administrations, both Democratic and Republican. Ms. Haspel is clearly a committed professional.

I welcome Ms. Haspel's statement of support for the "stricter moral standard" legislatively imposed by Congress with respect to interrogation policies and her admission that, in hindsight, the use of coercive interrogation techniques was a mistake. However, I remain troubled that Ms. Haspel failed to clearly articulate a view that the use of coercive interrogation techniques, including waterboarding, was immoral.

As discussed in a 2008 report by the Senate Armed Services Committee, the CIA's so-called enhanced interrogation techniques were based on Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape, or SERE, techniques used to train members of our military to resist torture. There are those who defend the use of such techniques by the CIA because similar techniques were previously used on our own troops during training activities. However, this argument ignores the fact that coercive interrogation techniques were never intended to be used by U.S. interrogators to gain actionable intelligence. Rather, the SERE techniques, which are based on Communist Chinese interrogation methods used during the Korean War to elicit false confessions, were developed to expose U.S. soldiers to the abusive treatment they might be subjected to if captured by our enemies.

There is simply no comparison between the use of such SERE techniques in a controlled environment to train U.S. military personnel to resist tor-

ture by an immoral enemy and their use by the CIA to interrogate detainees after 9/11. There is also no basis for any assertion that they are an effective means to gather intelligence, given their original purpose.

Some have suggested that Ms. Haspel is being held to a higher standard than that of former Director Brennan, who similarly served in leadership positions at the CIA at the same time as the creation and operation of the detention and interrogation program. During his confirmation process, former Director Brennan stated that he was aware of the program during his time at the CIA, but "did not play a role in its creation, execution, or oversight." He also testified, under oath, that he raised significant concerns and "personal objections" to colleagues at the time and stated that waterboarding is "reprehensible" and inconsistent with American values.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for Ms. Haspel. There is a lot the public doesn't know about Ms. Haspel due to the CIA's selective declassification of her record, but we do know that she joined the CIA's Counterterrorism Center soon after 9/11 and held various leadership positions in the Directorate of Operations that oversaw the detention and interrogation program. We also know that Ms. Haspel continues to be unwilling to make statements similar to those of former Director Brennan condemning the use of torture.

Lastly, we know that Ms. Haspel supported the destruction of evidence, namely 92 videotapes documenting waterboarding and other coercive interrogation techniques by CIA officers and contractors, despite known objections from superiors at the CIA and the White House. That alone should cause serious, bipartisan concern. Ms. Haspel's claim that she was just following orders is deeply flawed. It may be true that there was no legal prohibition on the destruction of the interrogation tapes, but that does not mean it was moral and ethical, particularly in light of known objections from various senior stakeholders.

At the hearing, I asked Ms. Haspel if she believed the destruction of the tapes was insubordinate, and she declined to describe it as such. Her refusal to clearly acknowledge and repudiate that error, even in retrospect, sets a troubling precedent that could be cited by other CIA officials to justify their own questionable behavior in the future, including those under her supervision.

Never has it been so important to have a Director of the CIA that is willing and capable of speaking truth to power. Ms. Haspel was nominated to lead the CIA by a President prone to misinformation and who, repeatedly, has advocated for the use of U.S. power and capabilities in ways that are inconsistent with U.S. values, including killing the families of terrorists.

I am glad that Ms. Haspel has committed not to restart a detention and

interrogation program under her leadership, but I retain serious doubts that she would stand up to President Trump if he directed her to carry out another legal, but morally questionable activity in the future. Taken together, Ms. Haspel's lack of transparency, unwillingness to repudiate torture, and inability to learn from past mistakes do not give me confidence that she is the right person to lead the CIA. I, therefore, voted no on her nomination.

20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, it is with sadness and reflection that I take a moment today to remember the shooting at Thurston High School in Springfield, OR, 20 years ago.

At the time, we thought of Thurston as a tragic anomaly and not as the forerunner of the horrific epidemic of gun violence in our schools we are living today. This plague rips away the lives of children and teachers, forever wounding the body and spirit of entire communities which never truly heal.

Twenty years have passed since a 15-year-old Thurston student went to his school, after killing his parents in their home, and opened fire on his classmates, but the rollcall of mass shootings and gun violence continues to grow. In my own home State of Oregon, in the past 20 years, we endured Thurston, Reynolds High School, Clackamas Town Center, and Umpqua Community College, among other acts of gun violence. Every time, we say this will be the last, and every time, it is not.

Even one, the shooting at Thurston, is too long a list, in my book; yet, tragically this epidemic of gun violence struck yet another community just last week in Santa Fe, Texas.

The students, teachers, families, and communities devastated by the mass shootings at Thurston, Newtown, Parkland, Santa Fe, and all of those not listed here deserve and rightfully demand so much more than thoughts and prayers.

They demand action. Congress must push back against special interests that have blocked every reasonable effort to protect our children and communities from gun violence. Congress must finally honor the lives lost and those many lives that have been so irrevocably altered by passing common sense gun laws.

All of our students and teachers and all of their families and communities deserve to go about their regular daily lives free from the fear of gun violence. Sadly, today, that is not our reality.

When I see the students and young people who organized the March for Our Lives in our Nation's Capital, in Oregon, and across the country, I see the spirit of those Thurston youngsters violently stolen from their families and loved ones. Let's honor them with action to protect our future.

REMEMBERING REVEREND W.G. HARDY, JR.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on February 2, Portland lost a dedicated man of faith, Rev. W.G. Hardy, Jr. As our community mourns the loss of this great spiritual leader, we also pause to celebrate all he did for our community.

During the 22 years that Pastor Hardy served as senior pastor of the Highland Christian Center in northeast Portland, he committed himself heart and soul to helping every person who walked through the doors of his church, as well as those who did not.

Preaching wasn't just a duty for Pastor Hardy; it was a calling that helped Portland be a better place to live. Many will remember Pastor Hardy inviting any and all to come to his church. Often you would see him on the weekends supporting the church's many activities and events. He spent endless hours advocating for those who are homeless, working with nonprofits and local governments to find solutions on mental illness, and developing programs to prevent young people from falling through the cracks.

Pastor Hardy was justifiably proud that Highland Christian Center hosted the annual "Keep Alive the Dream" events, which earned official designation from the National Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. Over the years, I had the fortune of attending this unique program, recognized as the largest tribute to Dr. King in the State of Oregon.

As a third-generation preacher, Pastor Hardy understood and valued the power of faith. He was steadfast in his advocacy and had the ear and phone numbers of countless city, county, and State leaders. His passion and energy for this work showed in his powerful and poignant sermons. Every time I would see Pastor Hardy, whether after one of his many inspiring services or during a visit to Washington, DC, he always had a smile on his face and an important issue to discuss.

Through his beloved wife, Ali Hardy, his children, grandchildren, and a host of other loving relatives, Pastor Hardy's life and legacy will last forever throughout Portland. His good work will continue through the leaders he helped lift up and create. While this is a loss for many, the gains he made will be felt by many for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL "MIKE" BOURRET

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of a leader in workforce development in the State of Maine. Michael "Mike" Bourret, of Bailey Island, ME, is retiring after 36 years of professional experience in workforce development, most recently in his position as executive director of Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. From his first days in the

early 1980s as an employment counselor in western Maine, Mike has held a number of leadership positions in which he has developed greater access to—and opportunities for individuals in—workforce development programs.

Mr. Bourret dedicated 12 years to the Maine Department of Labor, holding positions from employment and training director to special assistant to the commissioner, as director of the dislocated worker unit while at the department of labor, Mike recognized the flaws of a reactive government approach to plant closings and worker dislocation, leading Mike to promote a more proactive approach. This resulted in Mike assisting with the design of a new strategy to provide services for these workers. His guidance led to the development of the Maine CareerCenters, which provide employment and training services to individuals at no charge. In 1996, during my time as Governor, Mike helped establish the Governor's training initiative, GTI, to provide employers with the financial support to expand training for their employees and improve retention of their workers. GTI was recognized for its success, and the following year, I awarded Mike the Governor's Teamwork Award for his dedication to implementing projects to improve Maine's economy and workforce. To date, GTI has helped over 20,000 Maine workers.

In 1998, the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, was passed, and Mike brought together State and local parties to organize a new regionally based workforce design in Maine, promoting a more customer-focused approach in Federal job training programs. Under WIA, Mike established Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc., in 2000, where he served as executive director for 18 years, administering over \$98 million dollars for the organization. The Coastal Counties Workforce Board region today spans six coastal counties and has received over 1.3 million customer visits to its centers. Over 40,000 Mainers have received essential career and training services, with 82 percent entering employment. These services have improved the well-being of Maine residents, including assisting some of our most vulnerable neighbors in finding meaningful employment, while supporting local businesses with skilled workers.

Due to Mike's commitment to workforce development and ability to secure funding for a variety of workforce initiatives and training programs throughout the years, there has been continued expansion of employment and training services for the residents of Maine. His ability to coordinate programs and foster partnerships was a critical factor in his success, whether it be at the local, State, or national level. As a champion of workforce development, I join with his colleagues, friends, and the people of Maine in thanking Mike for his unwavering service to the workforce of our State.●